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PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS

Note verbale dated 18 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The National Bureau of Surveying and Mapping of the People's Republic of China (NBSM) offers to host the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Beijing in May 1994. Should the Conference be held in Beijing instead of Bangkok, NBSM would undertake to pay the difference in the expenses between Beijing and Bangkok and provide the meeting rooms, staff and services necessary for the Conference.

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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, requested the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1993 to set up a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to ensure the effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels, fully guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all other aspects of the Conference, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.

2. The Assembly recommended, inter alia, that the Commission should provide for representatives of various parts of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, including international financial institutions, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, regional development banks, subregional financial institutions, relevant regional and subregional economic and technical cooperation organizations, and regional economic

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* E/1993/2 and Add.1.

integration organizations, to assist and advise the Commission in the performance of its functions within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, and to participate actively in its deliberations; provide for the European Economic Community (EEC), within its areas of competence, to participate - as will be appropriately defined in the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development - fully, without the right to vote; and provide for non-governmental organizations, including those related to major groups, as well as industry and the scientific and business communities, to participate effectively in its work and contribute within their areas of competence to its deliberations.

3. In the light of the above, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit, for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1993, his proposals on the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those related to participation of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as recommended by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, taking into account the following:

(a) The procedures, while ensuring the intergovernmental nature of the Commission, should allow its members to benefit from the expertise and competence of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(b) The procedures should permit relevant intergovernmental organizations inside and outside the United Nations system, including multilateral financial institutions, to appoint special representatives to the Commission;

(c) The rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and the rules of procedure of its functional commissions;

(d) The rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(e) Decisions 1/1 and 2/1 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(f) Paragraphs 38.11 and 38.44 of Agenda 21.

4. The functional commissions of the Council work under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1). However, rule 27.2 of the rules of procedure of the Council (E/5715/Rev.2) states that "the rules of procedure of the commissions and their subsidiary bodies shall be drawn up by the Council, unless it decides otherwise". In the light of the recommendations of the General Assembly regarding the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it would appear that two possible courses of action are open to the Council. It could (i) elaborate a separate set of rules of procedure for this Commission; or (ii) take decisions, applicable only to the Commission on Sustainable Development, regarding relevant provisions of the standard rules of procedure of the functional commissions in order to ensure that its procedures align with paragraphs 7 and 8 of General Assembly resolution 47/191.

5. The Secretary-General is of the view that most of the standard rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council continue to be relevant to the Commission on Sustainable Development and would allow it to perform its functions effectively. Some questions arise, however, in respect of the rules related to the participation of specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations and EEC, as well as to the representation of and consultation with non-governmental organizations.

6. In order to adjust the relevant provisions of the standard rules of procedure of the functional commissions to meet the needs of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as recommended by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General suggests that the Council might adopt a resolution, applicable solely to the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would give an interpretative statement of rules 71-73 on the participation of and consultation with specialized agencies and rule 74 on the participation of other intergovernmental organizations; supersede rules 75 and 76 on representation of and consultation with non-governmental organizations; and provide for the participation of EEC in the Commission on Sustainable Development. In any case, the Council may wish to amend footnote 1 to the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) to include the Commission on Sustainable Development in the enumeration of functional commissions.

Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies and participation of other intergovernmental organizations (rules 71-74)

7. The General Assembly recommended that the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development should permit relevant intergovernmental organizations inside and outside the United Nations system, including multilateral financial institutions, to appoint special representatives to the Commission. In the view of the Secretary-General, it would be useful for specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, including financial institutions, to designate a representative to attend the sessions of the Commission on their behalf in order to assist and advise it in the performance of its functions within their areas of expertise, as well as to serve as a focal point for the Commission's members and the secretariat during the inter-sessional periods.

8. It seems that, in principle, the current provisions of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council would allow specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations to appoint special representatives to the Commission on Sustainable Development. Accordingly, the Council may wish to adopt an appropriate interpretative decision regarding rules 71-74, in which it could invite specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, including financial institutions, to consider designating such representatives with the above-mentioned functions.

Participation of the European Economic Community

9. Upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in its decision 4/6 on the status of EEC at the Conference, the General Assembly, in its decision 46/470 of 13 April 1992, decided to amend the draft provisional rules of the Conference "in order to allow the European Economic Community to participate fully" in the Conference. The Secretary-General notes that these rules cannot, in and of themselves, be utilized for EEC participation in the Commission on Sustainable Development. Whereas the Assembly decided to include EEC among the full participants at the Conference, the Assembly decided that the 53 members of the Commission would be States. The EEC thus cannot be a member of the Commission. With the exception of chapter XII (Participation of non-members of the commission), the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council govern the rights of the elected members of the functional commissions. It would not, in the Secretary-General's view, be appropriate to provide a general rule or decision by which a non-member of the new Commission could have the same rights as members.

10. Moreover, such a general rule would not be in accord with the precedent set for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with regard to "full participation" of EEC. It should be recalled that by decisions 4/6 of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and 46/470 of the General Assembly, the rules of procedure of the Conference were amended in order to allow EEC to participate fully in the Conference. 1/ As amended, some rules applied both to representatives of States and to EEC, such as the rule on submission of credentials, and some rules applied to representatives without distinguishing among them, such as the rule on making proposals. Other rules, however, were restricted only to the representatives of States, such as those concerning the holding of office, being counted for quorum purposes and making such procedural motions as those for adjournment of debate, closure of debate, or suspension or adjournment of the meeting.

11. In the Secretary-General's view, the Council could give EEC rights of full participation as a non-member of the Commission, analogous to rights found in the existing rules applicable to the participation of non-members of the functional commissions, in particular rules 69 and 71. The Council could accord such rights to EEC by means of a separate decision relating to EEC participation as a non-member of the Commission along the following lines:

1/ See A/CONF.151/PC/L.74, A/CONF.151/PC/128, paras. 36-38, Preparatory Committee decision 4/8, A/46/897 and A/CONF.151/2.

"Participation of the European Economic Community
in the Commission on Sustainable Development

"The Commission on Sustainable Development or a subsidiary organ thereof shall invite the European Economic Community, within its areas of competence, to participate fully in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to the Community. The Community shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Commission or of the subsidiary organ concerned."

12. Accordingly, the Council may wish to incorporate a footnote to rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council (E/5975/Rev.1) that would read: "Participation of the European Economic Community in the Commission on Sustainable Development is governed by Economic and Social Council resolution [number of the resolution the Council might adopt in this regard]."

13. Finally, it should be observed that participation in informal meetings, consultations or negotiations is a matter falling outside the formal rules of procedure; it is a matter in the first instance for the convenor of such meetings to determine. Thus, participation of EEC in such meetings will be a policy matter to be determined.

Representation of and consultation with non-governmental organizations (rules 75 and 76)

14. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was characterized by unprecedented involvement of non-governmental organizations. These organizations made a significant contribution to both the preparations for and the results of the Conference. The procedures for the participation and accreditation of non-governmental organizations for the Conference and the preparatory process was determined by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference in its decisions 1/1 and 2/1, subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 45/211 of 21 December 1990 and 46/168 of 19 December 1991. Decision 1/1 of the Preparatory Committee highlighted the need to ensure equitable representation in the preparatory process of non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries and from all regions, as well as to ensure a fair balance between non-governmental organizations with an environmental focus and those with a developmental focus and to encourage the participation of scientific organizations.

15. By the conclusion of the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, the Committee had established the competence and relevance of more than 1,400 non-governmental organizations for participation in its work. These organizations were eligible, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/168, to participate as observers at the Conference. Some 1,000 of these non-governmental organizations do not have consultative or Roster status with the Council.

16. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development should "encourage the participation of non-governmental organizations, including industry and the business and scientific communities" (paragraph 38.11 of Agenda 21), and in relation to the follow-up process of the Conference, stated that "procedures should be established for an expanded role for non-governmental organizations, including those related to major groups, with accreditation based on the procedures used for the Conference" (paragraph 38.44 of Agenda 21).

17. The Secretary-General shares the view of the General Assembly that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to benefit from the expertise and competence of non-governmental organizations, including those that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In order to ensure continuity and further enhance the dialogue between the representatives of Governments and the non-governmental organizations, as important partners for sustainable development, the Economic and Social Council may wish to decide that any non-governmental organization which was accredited to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by the conclusion of its fourth session but does not have consultative status with the Council can apply for and shall be granted Roster status, bearing in mind the provisions of Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. Those non-governmental organizations shall be eligible to designate authorized representatives to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in accordance with its rules of procedure.

18. A decision of the Council to grant Roster status to interested non-governmental organizations which were accredited to participate in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development would be likely to result in a significant increase in the number of non-governmental organizations eligible to participate in the Commission on Sustainable Development. To enhance and facilitate the active and coordinated participation of the non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission, the Secretary-General believes that it might be useful for the non-governmental organizations themselves to organize or continue organizing in various constituencies and interest groups and to set up non-governmental networks, including electronic networks, for exchange of information and documentation related to the work of the Commission and the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in general.

19. In addition, non-governmental preparations for and contributions to the follow-up of the Conference and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development might be facilitated through such arrangements as the following:

(a) Non-governmental organizations could organize coalitions/consortiums which could meet annually in advance of the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop positions and designate representatives to attend its sessions and act as their spokespersons;

(b) Non-governmental organizations could hold periodic subregional/regional meetings to develop positions on given themes based on the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) Non-governmental organizations could consider developing parallel consultative processes linked with the themes reflected in the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(d) Annual meetings between groups of non-governmental organizations and the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development could be organized in order to maintain an active relationship and liaison during the inter-sessional periods.

20. Bearing in mind the procedures related to the participation of the non-governmental organizations developed for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its preparatory process, in particular decision 1/1 of the Preparatory Committee, the Council may also wish to adopt the following decision, which would supersede, solely for the purposes of the Commission on Sustainable Development, rules 75 and 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council:

"Representation of and consultation with the non-governmental organizations in the Commission on Sustainable Development

"1. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I or II, or relevant and competent non-governmental organizations on the Roster, 2/ may designate authorized representatives to be present and observe the meetings of the commission and its subsidiary organs. Should the number of non-governmental organizations which have expressed their desire to be present at such meetings exceed the capacity of the room where the meeting of the Commission or its subsidiary body is being held, the Chairman of the commission or its subsidiary organ may request the non-governmental organizations concerned to designate representatives to be present in the room.

"2. These non-governmental organizations may, at their own expense, make written presentations to the commission and its subsidiary organs through the Secretariat in the official languages of the United Nations, as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations will not be issued as official documents.

2/ The relevance and competence of the non-governmental organizations on the Roster shall be determined by the Council on the recommendation of the Secretary-General.

"3. These non-governmental organizations may be given an opportunity to briefly address the meetings of the commission and its subsidiary organs. Taking into account of the number of non-governmental organizations expressing a desire to be accorded that opportunity, the Chairman of the commission or its subsidiary organ may request the non-governmental organizations concerned to address the meetings through one or more spokespersons. Any oral intervention by a representative of a non-governmental organization shall be made at the discretion of the Chairman of the commission or its subsidiary organ and with the consent of the members of the commission or its subsidiary organ, as the case may be.

"4. Non-governmental organizations shall not have any negotiating role in the work of the commission and its subsidiary organs.

"5. The Commission may consult with non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, category I or II, or relevant and competent non-governmental organizations on the Roster, 2/ either directly or through a committee or committees established for that purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged at the invitation of the commission, at the request of a non-governmental organization or on the recommendation of the Secretary-General."

21. Accordingly, the Council may wish to incorporate an additional footnote to rules 75 and 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council (E/5975/Rev.1) that would read: "Not applicable to the Commission on Sustainable Development, for which the terms of representation of and consultation with the non-governmental organizations were determined by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [number of the resolution the Council might adopt in this regard]."

22. The Secretary-General also believes that it would be appropriate for the Council to undertake a general review of the overall arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations. The current arrangements were basically determined by the Council in its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968. It now seems an appropriate time to update those arrangements in the light of relevant experience gained within the United Nations in the course of the last 25 years, in particular through the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its preparatory process. Accordingly, the Council may wish to request the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to undertake such a review and to report back to the Council at its substantive session of 1995.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolutions 1989/91, 1991/93 and 1992/37, decided on the convening, mandate and preparatory process of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994.

2. Subsequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/176, in which it recognized the importance of ensuring an adequate intergovernmental preparatory process for the Conference, as well as the importance of the participation in the Conference and its preparatory process of all relevant non-governmental organizations from developed and developing countries.

3. The Assembly accordingly requested the Council, at its organizational session for 1993, to consider the possibility of adjusting the proposed timing and duration of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and to formulate and adopt modalities to ensure the participation in and contribution to the Conference and its preparatory process of relevant non-governmental organizations.

Timing and duration of Preparatory Committee sessions

4. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference was held from 4 to 8 March 1991 in New York. In resolution 1991/93, the Council decided, in principle, to hold the second session of the Preparatory Committee

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* E/1993/2 and Add.1.

in August 1993, immediately following the rescheduled twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission. It also decided, in principle, to hold the third session of the Preparatory Committee early in 1994. The period 16-19 August 1993 is currently allocated for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

5. At both the substantive session of 1992 of the Council and the forty-seventh session of the Assembly concern was expressed by delegations about the adequacy of the preparatory process for the Conference. Chief among these concerns was the view that while the Preparatory Committee at its first session had set in place a broadened mandate for the Conference, it had not addressed fully a number of important aspects of the remaining preparatory process, including the expected outcome of the Conference and how to address the issues of population and development in an integrated manner, as required by the Conference's mandate. In addition, the issue of the participation and contribution of non-governmental organizations remained unresolved.

6. Following the first session of the Preparatory Committee the international community and many parts of the United Nations system were actively preparing for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The experience of that process has influenced the approach many are taking to the International Conference on Population and Development. The extent of this influence is reflected in General Assembly resolution 47/176, in which the Assembly, inter alia, recognized the importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development.

7. Since only two sessions of the Preparatory Committee are scheduled before the Conference takes place, both delegations and the Conference secretariat are giving particular attention to the decisions which must be taken during the second session if the necessary preparation of the draft conference outcome is to be completed for consideration and negotiation at the third and final session. The Conference secretariat estimates that more than the four days currently allocated will be required. It is proposed, therefore, that eight days be requested, a period equal to the conference-servicing allocation already provided to cover the second session of the Preparatory Committee in August and the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission (four days), and that the second session be brought forward to mid-May, beginning on 17 May. Any decision to extend the duration of the second session to more than eight days would have some, although limited, implications for the programme budget.

8. It should be noted that any decision to bring the second session forward would also have implications for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, scheduled to be held in August 1993. As the work being undertaken for that session cannot be completed by May, it has been suggested that the Commission defer the session until 1994 and hold it in conjunction with the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

9. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee is to review and finalize the proposed outcome of the Conference in the form of a declaration and recommendations. These will be drafted by the Secretariat on the basis of guidance provided at the second session.

10. The Secretariat estimates that, at a minimum, a two-week session will be required for negotiation of this document, particularly since it will not previously have been the subject of intergovernmental negotiation. It is suggested that the third session of the Preparatory Committee be held in April 1994, thereby providing maximum opportunity for the documentation to be finalized and distributed well in advance of the session. If a two-week period is proposed, the dates 11-22 April 1994 are recommended. The rescheduled twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission could be held before or after those dates.

11. Extending the duration of the third session and rescheduling the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission will have implications for the programme budget.

12. Should the Council decide to extend the duration and to adjust timing of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee and reschedule the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, as suggested in the preceded paragraphs above, the statement on the programme budget implications of that decision would be submitted to the Council in accordance with established procedure before the decision is taken.

13. As such changes would fall in the biennium 1994-1995, they would need to be assessed at the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council when the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994-1995 in the economic, social and related fields is considered, and referred to the Committee on Conferences.

Participation of non-governmental organizations

14. In resolution 47/176, the General Assembly recognized the importance of the participation of relevant non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process, and requested the Economic and Social Council to formulate and adopt modalities to ensure their participation in and contribution to the Conference, in particular those from developing countries, taking into account the procedures followed in the process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the experience gained in this matter in previous United Nations population conferences.

15. Records show that 109 groups participated in the United Nations World Population Conference held at Bucharest in 1974 and that 139 participated in the International Conference on Population held at Mexico City in 1984. Slightly more than 1,400 non-governmental groups were accredited by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and were therefore eligible to attend the Conference. Many thousands of individuals associated with non-governmental groups did so.

16. Both the experience of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its preparatory process and the broadening of the mandate of the International Conference on Population and Development appear to be important factors in the interest already being shown by non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process. Several hundred non-governmental groups have already requested information about the Conference and have expressed the wish to participate in all the preparations for the Conference.

17. Selected non-governmental organizations have been invited to attend each of the six expert group meetings and non-governmental organizations have attended the two regional conferences held to date. At present they are actively organizing a consultative structure for non-governmental activity: the NGO Planning Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development. There is every indication that the interest and involvement of non-governmental organizations in the 1994 Conference and all its preparations will be significantly higher than they were at either of the previous population conferences.

18. In recognition of the importance attached to the participation of non-governmental organizations in all aspects of the process for the International Conference on Population and Development by delegations at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and in the light of the experience gained with regard to the procedures adopted for the process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, it is proposed that modalities similar to those adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development be used for the International Conference on Population and Development and all aspects of its preparatory process. In this regard, decisions 1/1 and 2/1 adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development could be used as the basis for the modalities for the participation of non-governmental organizations. If this approach is accepted, the Conference secretariat will inform interested non-governmental organizations about arrangements for accreditation and prepare information on recommended non-governmental applicants for consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

19. It should be noted, at the same time, that some aspects of the accreditation process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development could be improved upon. For example, the very large number of non-governmental organizations that sought accreditation strained the resources of the Secretariat, which bore the main responsibility for reviewing the credentials of the applicants. In addition, the pace at which intergovernmental review of the proposals emanating from the Secretariat was conducted afforded delegations little or no time to scrutinize the proposals. Although it is not expected that non-governmental organizations will seek accreditation in such numbers on this occasion, any accreditation process for non-governmental organizations will add to the workload of the Conference secretariat. Procedures should be developed to ensure that the secretariat is able to undertake the necessary careful review of applications and that its

recommendations are available to delegations well before the Preparatory Committee is required to take action on them.

20. As the Preparatory Committee for the Conference is an Economic and Social Council body, it is expected that Member States will wish to take account of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations governing the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Article 71, for instance, provides that non-governmental organizations should have either an international or national character in order to be eligible for official status.

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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, requested the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1993 to set up a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to ensure the effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels, fully guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and all other aspects of the Conference, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries. The Assembly made a number of recommendations on the functions and terms of reference of the Commission (resolution 47/191, paras. 3-5).

2. The General Assembly also recommended that the Commission consist of representatives of 53 States elected by the Economic and Social Council from among the Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies for three-year terms, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. The regional allocation of seats could be the same as in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as decided in Economic and Social Council

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* E/1993/2 and Add.1.

decision 1992/222 of 29 May 1992. Representation should be at a high level, including ministerial participation. Other Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as other observers of the United Nations may participate in the Commission in the capacity of observer, in accordance with established practice.

3. The Secretary-General wishes to remind the Council that in decision 1992/222, it decided on the following regional allocation of seats in the Commission for Science and Technology for Development:

(a) Thirteen seats for African States;

(b) Eleven seats for Asian States;

(c) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States.

4. The Council may wish to resume its organizational session on 12 February in order to hold elections to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

5. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit, for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1993, his proposals on the rules of procedure of the Commission. The proposals of the Secretary-General are contained in document E/1993/12.

6. The General Assembly recommended that the Commission meet once a year for a period of two to three weeks. It was decided that the first substantive session of the Commission would be held in New York in 1993, without prejudice to the venue of future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The understanding has been reached that the Issue Coordinator for item 79 (Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) of the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, Ambassador Razali Ismail (Malaysia), will continue to hold informal consultations on the venue of the future sessions of the Commission, to be decided on at a resumed forty-seventh session of the Assembly.

7. The General Assembly also recommended that in 1993, as a transitional measure, the Commission hold a short organizational session in New York. At that session, the Commission would elect its Bureau, consisting of a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, coming from each of the regional groups, decide on the agenda of its first substantive session and consider all other organizational issues as might be necessary. The agenda for the organizational session of the Commission should be decided on by the Council at its organizational session for 1993.

8. The General Assembly further recommended that the Commission, at its first substantive session, adopt a multi-year thematic programme of work that would provide a framework to assess progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and ensure an integrated approach to all of its environment and development components, as well as linkages between sectoral and cross-sectoral issues. The programme of work could consist of clusters that would integrate in an effective manner related sectoral and cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21 in such a way as to allow the Commission to review the progress of the implementation of the entire Agenda 21 by 1997. The programme of work could be adjusted, as the need arose, at future sessions of the Commission. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit his proposals for such a programme of work during the organizational session of the Commission.

9. The General Assembly recommended that, in order to carry out its functions and implement its work programme effectively, the Commission consider organizing its work along the following lines:

(a) Financial resources, mechanisms, transfer of technology, capacity-building, and other cross-sectoral issues;

(b) Review of implementation of Agenda 21 at the international level, as well as at the regional and national levels, including the means of implementation, in accordance with paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 47/191 (see para. 8 above) and the functions of the Commission, taking into account, where appropriate, information regarding the progress in the implementation of relevant environmental conventions;

(c) A high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to have an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide the necessary political impetus to the implementation of decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and commitments contained therein.

The Assembly also recommended that the implementation of Agenda 21 be reviewed and considered in an integrated manner.

10. In the light of the above, the Council may wish to approve the following provisional agenda for the organizational session of the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Election of the Chairperson and other members of the Bureau;

(b) Provisional agenda and organization of work of the first substantive session of the Commission;

(c) Outline of a multi-year programme of work for the Commission;

(d) Other organizational issues as may be necessary.

11. If the Council decides to elect the members of the Commission on 12 February 1993, the Secretary-General suggests that the organizational session of the Commission be held from 1 to 3 March 1993. The Secretary-General would like to remind the Council that travel expenses of representatives on the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council are paid for from the regular budget of the United Nations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII), paragraph 3 (a) (ii).

12. Regarding the dates for the first substantive session of the Commission, the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the calendar of meetings of intergovernmental bodies for 1993, wishes to inform the Council that in order to avoid conflict with other meetings, the Commission could meet in New York for two or three weeks, from 30 August to 10 or 17 September. The report of the Commission would then be considered by the Economic and Social Council at a resumed substantive session. Alternatively, the Council may decide that it is preferable to hold the first substantive session of the Commission earlier in the year. If the Council so decides, the Commission could meet immediately prior to the substantive session of the Council for two weeks, from 14 to 25 June. The Council should bear in mind that these dates overlap with the fortieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, which is scheduled to meet in New York from 1 to 22 June. Moreover, meeting on these dates could entail additional expenses, since regular conference and interpretation services may not be available at Headquarters during that period.

13. In the light of the above, the specific matters for decision at the organizational session for 1993 of the Economic and Social Council under item 5 of its provisional agenda are:

(a) Establishment of the high-level Commission on Sustainable Development (see para. 1 above);

(b) The regional allocation of seats in the Commission (see paras. 2 and 3 above);

(c) The date of the elections to the Commission (see para. 4 above);

(d) The rules of procedure of the Commission (see para. 5 above and document E/1993/12);

(e) The agenda for the organizational session of the Commission (see paras. 7-10 above);

(f) The dates for the organizational and first substantive sessions of the Commission (see paras. 6, 11 and 12 above).

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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in paragraph 38.18 of Agenda 21, 1/ stated that intergovernmental bodies, the Secretary-General and the United Nations system as a whole may also benefit from the expertise of a high-level advisory board consisting of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, including relevant sciences, appointed by the Secretary-General in their personal capacity. In this context, the Secretary-General was requested to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. In his report (A/47/598 and Add.1) on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Secretary-General presented his views on the functioning and responsibilities of the Board. In its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that the High-level Advisory Board should consist of eminent personalities broadly representative of all regions of the world, with recognized expertise on the broad spectrum of issues to be dealt with by the Commission on Sustainable Development, drawn from relevant scientific disciplines, industry, finance and other major non-governmental constituencies, as well as various disciplines related to environment and development, and that due account should also be given to gender balance. Furthermore, the Assembly decided that the main task of this

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* E/1993/2 and Add.1.

Board was to give broad consideration to issues related to implementation of Agenda 21, taking into account the thematic multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and provide expert advice in that regard to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

3. In paragraph 60 of his report, mentioned above, the Secretary-General noted that the areas covered in the work of the existing Committee for Development Planning and the type of expertise available in its membership were potentially similar to those of the High-level Advisory Board and proposed that a single body should be established to provide high-level advice on all questions relating to environment and development. The Assembly took note of the views of the Secretary-General in this regard, and requested him to submit appropriate proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1993, including the possibility of organizing expert rosters.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of the General Assembly resolution referred to above, the Secretary-General intends to set up in the near future a High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, consisting of 15 to 25 internationally recognized personalities to be appointed by him in their personal capacity. The Board would meet for a period of two to three days in advance of the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Members of the Board might also, at the request of the Commission, take part in its sessions, particularly its high-level meeting. Members of the Board would be nominated for a period of two years - with a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson to be elected by the Board itself on a rotating basis. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development would act as its Executive Secretary.

5. The Board will serve as a high-level source of advice for the Secretary-General in formulating policy proposals, elaborating innovative approaches and courses for action, and identifying emerging issues to be brought to the attention of relevant intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, including the high-level segments of these bodies, as well as to the attention of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. The Board's deliberations might be based on conceptual papers prepared by the United Nations Secretariat and, as appropriate, input from ad hoc meetings of experts organized by the Secretary-General and/or held upon request of the Commission on Sustainable Development or the Economic and Social Council (see also paras. 11-12 below).

6. In more specific terms, the Board would have the following functions:

(a) To provide high-level advice, proposals and recommendations on issues and themes to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission's high-level meetings;

(b) To bring to the attention of the Secretary-General and, through him, to that of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, emerging problems related to sustainable development and possible ways and means for resolving them;

(c) To provide the Secretary-General and, through him, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, with its views on the expectations and concerns of major constituencies and groups on sustainable development issues and on the contribution of the United Nations system in addressing those issues;

(d) To contribute to the building of partnerships between the United Nations and the scientific, business and academic communities and major non-governmental groups;

(e) To promote knowledge and understanding of and mobilize support for United Nations activities in the area of environment and development throughout the constituencies and groups represented by its members.

7. Generally, the agenda for the meetings of the Board would be related to the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. At the same time, should there occur, during inter-sessional periods, major developments that might have a significant impact on international cooperation in the area of environment and development, the Secretary-General could propose adjustments to the Board's agenda to ensure the forward-looking nature of its deliberations. Moreover, should such developments require the urgent attention of intergovernmental bodies, the Secretary-General could call special meetings of the Board to elicit its views for their consideration. The views of the Board would be conveyed to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant intergovernmental bodies in the form of information notes and/or annexes to reports of the Secretary-General.

8. The Secretary-General notes that the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development, whose functions are to be subsumed under those of the High-level Advisory Board, has evolved over the years from provision of assistance to the Economic and Social Council in evaluating United Nations activities relating to economic planning and programming towards consideration of world development trends and prospects and formulation of recommendations in the areas of development and international economic and financial cooperation. Indeed, over the past few years, it had been suggested within the Commission on Sustainable Development itself that there was need for strengthening the capacity of its membership to deal with sustainable development issues. The Secretary-General also recognizes that issues related to implementation of Agenda 21 are extremely broad and may necessitate specialized expert advice which the Board, given the high level and limited composition of its membership, may not always be able to provide on its own. He notes further that the functions of the Board, as outlined in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, extend beyond the provision of expert advice strictly speaking.

9. In order for the Board, as well as the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, to avail themselves of such technical expert advice as may be necessary on the wide array of issues falling within their competence, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a roster or rosters - drawing, as appropriate, from existing rosters held by

organizations of the United Nations system - of experts with recognized competence in the scientific and technical areas involved. In order to encompass as broad a spectrum as possible of the relevant expertise and knowledge available throughout the world, such a roster or rosters would be flexible and open-ended in nature. In establishing and maintaining the roster and a liaison with the experts placed thereon, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat will cooperate closely with other parts of the Secretariat.

10. Such a roster would thus reflect the complex and multidisciplinary nature of issues to be addressed in the course of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Moreover, experts on the roster (some of whom might be current members of the Committee for Development Planning) could be effectively called upon to provide competent advice on the general economic and development issues currently addressed within the Commission on Sustainable Development. At the same time, functions currently vested in the Commission's mandate related to the criteria for identifying least developed countries could be entrusted by the Economic and Social Council to other competent organs.

11. Consultations with the experts on the roster, for the purpose of exploring pressing and/or emerging problems and elaborating proposals on innovative and practical approaches to resolving them, taking into account the multi-year thematic programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, could be organized in a flexible manner, depending on the nature of a particular issue, through either correspondence or, as the need arose, small ad hoc expert group meetings. Such a flexible approach would provide significant advantages in terms of mobilizing expeditiously and economically the expertise that may be required for purposes of follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

12. If the need arose to obtain expert scientific or technical advice on a particular theme or issue to be addressed by the Commission in accordance with its programme of work, the Secretary-General could organize small ad hoc working groups drawing upon the expertise of those placed on the roster in order to prepare relevant studies or research papers. The studies or papers could then be presented by the chairpersons of those working groups to the High-level Advisory Board with a view to assisting it in its deliberations. Experts on the roster could also, upon request, prepare studies and reports for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development or the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

1/ See "Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992" (A/CONF.151/26), vol. III.

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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 8

Please replace the paragraph with the following text:

8. The Secretary-General notes that the mandate of the Committee for Development Planning, whose functions are to be subsumed under those of the High-level Advisory Board, has evolved over the years from provision of assistance to the Economic and Social Council in evaluating United Nations activities relating to economic planning and programming towards consideration of world development trends and prospects and formulation of recommendations in the areas of development and international economic and financial cooperation. Indeed, over the past few years, it had been suggested within the Committee for Development Planning itself that there was need for strengthening the capacity of its membership to deal with sustainable development issues. The Secretary-General also recognizes that issues related to implementation of Agenda 21 are extremely broad and may necessitate specialized expert advice which the Board, given the high level and limited composition of its membership, may not always be able to provide on its own. He notes further that the functions of the Board, as outlined in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, extend beyond the provision of expert advice strictly speaking.

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* E/1993/2 and Add.1.

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